

Executive Registry
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: National Security Medal

On 19 January 1953 President Truman, by Executive Order 10431 established the National Security Medal to be awarded for outstanding contribution to the United States intelligence effort. In his letter of 19 January 1953 to General Walter B. Smith (copy attached) the President authorized the Director of Central Intelligence to make awards of the National Security Medal and to recommend to the President such changes in the regulations as may be necessary from time to time.

Since the Executive Order provides that the Medal be worn on the uniform when awarded to members of the Armed Services, it is my belief that the Department of Defense should establish its precedence in relation to other decorations awarded to military personnel. The National Security Medal will, of course, be but rarely awarded, and then only for "exceptionally meritorious service performed in a position of high responsibility" or for "an act of valor requiring personal courage of a high degree and complete disregard of personal safety." Your cooperation in establishing its precedence in consonance with these standards will be highly appreciated.

By agreement with the Executive Secretary, National Security Council, the Director of Central Intelligence has accepted responsibility for securing designs for the medal, its ribbon, and appurtenances. I am convinced that this work can best be undertaken by the Heraldic Branch, Office of the Quartermaster General, Department of the Army, and herewith request its assistance in preparing appropriate designs, sketches and models.

[redacted] of this Agency will represent me in discussing both of the matters mentioned above and is prepared to call upon your representatives when convenient to you.

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ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

Enclosure

See ER-3-9121 dtd 10 Apr 53

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